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Minden physicians speak out

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The Minden ER physicians have spoken. "This shouldn't have happened now," said Dr. Bruno Helt of the Minden ER during a private media interview.

"In terms of the physician resources in Minden, we have been fully staffed, without need for any outside support, for more than 25 years." He noted that the first time they required assistance was in April of this year, where they needed support from Health Force Ontario.

With this in mind, they had a very clear-cut schedule in place between April and the end of September of this year. While the schedule had some openings, Helt had no concerns that all the shifts would be covered.

"The Minden Hospital would never have closed this summer because we didn't have enough physicians to cover," Helt shared that if "worse came to worst", for those few gaps in the schedule that could not be covered by Health Force Ontario, he, or others in the Minden group would have stepped in. "We were sufficiently staffed to get us to the end of September."

According to Dr. Helt, the Haliburton ER is the facility that continually relies heavily on Health Force support. And it's not a clear-cut solution; closing one hospital does not guarantee that all resources shift gears to practice wherever the open facility is.

"Many of the Minden physicians are not prepared to work in Haliburton, and that was made clear to HHHS during discussions we had last year."

Helt said that Minden physicians aren't going over to Haliburton for a variety of reasons, none of which are related to any specific Minden/Haliburton politics, rather, it was credited to the extended travel and a working situation that not all physicians are comfortable with.

With the closure, the Minden physicians are no longer a formalized group, resulting in all physicians becoming independent contractors. Many are picking up shifts in Peterborough and Lindsay, and while some may go to the Haliburton site, it is up to the individual physician to decide where they may go.

"It's not a consolidation of two hospitals, and two physician groups. The Haliburton Emergency Department (ED) is in a very vulnerable position where their one ED now needs to cover an additional 30 to 31 shifts per month with the same limited local physician pool," said Helt.

"Some Minden physicians will cover some of these shifts but now there will be additional openings that Health Force will need to cover if the Haliburton ED is to remain open."

Helt said that based on staffing, Minden was guaranteed to stay open until at least the end of September, but there is one caveat in which they would close. "If Haliburton were to close in the summer, and we didn't have anybody to provide some double coverage for us in Minden, we felt it was too unsafe for one physician, who works 24-hours, to safely care for the entire community."

That is the only circumstance in which Helt felt a Minden ER closure would be possible

see STAFFING page 2



All smiles for reptiles

Holly Carpenter of Minden shares a laugh with a snake at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre season opening on May 20. The opening included critter visitors from Browning Reptiles. For more photos, see inside this issue. /Photo by Jaime Bilodeau

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Fire ban lifted

All four municipalities have confirmed that the county-wide fire ban that was put in place on May 17 has officially been lifted as of midnight on Wednesday, May 24. “We are grateful that the community listened to the fire ban over the long weekend,” said Algonquin Highlands fire chief Mike French, “people didn’t realize how dry it was, and it really helped us out. Now, let’s hope for no more fires over the summer.”



NDP MPP Chris Glover from Spadina-Fort York spoke at the Minden Fairgrounds to a full crowd of active listeners. Glover shared that he has a cottage in Miners Bay, therefore the ER closure impacts him both personally and professionally.



The lineup at the Minden Fairgrounds to financially support the lawyers who have been hired to support the “Minden Matters” group, and counteract the Minden ER closure.



Minden matters

Hundreds attended the community meeting organized by the "Minden Matters" group on May 21 at the Minden Fairgrounds. During the speeches, the organizers announced that they had recently found lawyers to take on their case of the closure, requesting the community continue to chip in to support the legal funds. Organizer Richard Bradley shared with the crowd that in the first 36 hours of requesting financial support, they had raised an average of "\$1000 an hour." The total funds raised at the time of this publication was nearly \$50,000. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

Staffing not the issue, doctors say

from page 1

any time over the summer months.

He also noted that the HHHS Board broke their contracts with the physicians, as they were required to provide 90-days notice for a closure, and staff received six weeks.

Dr. Helt asked what many community members are curious about: why wasn't there more public consultation in the decision making process? "There are all sorts of people who might have a better idea how to tackle this problem, and why not put it out there to have them involved in this discussion as well?"

After last summer, Helt stated that there was ongoing concern regarding HHHS Nursing and Haliburton ED physician shortages, but there had been no further communication on these issues with the Minden group until all staff were notified of the Minden ER closure on April 20.

Helt addressed the question of potentially providing a “pause” rather than a formal closure of the Minden ER site. “The Minden Hospital ED service contract is between the Ministry of Health (MOH), the Minden physician group, and HHS. If the MOH understands the Minden physician group

can come together again after the summer, they may be able to put a pause on the decision for a complete closure if HHS agrees to do the same.”

Dr. Dennis Fiddler was also at the media conference, and piped up at this comment. He noted that even if the decision to reverse the closure was made at this point, the damage has been done, as most physicians have already scrambled to take shifts at surrounding hospitals at this time. “We know the community is rallying really hard to have this reversed or postponed to keep it open, but that’s also a concern, because if it does, we’re still not going to have physicians to fill those holes.”

At the end of the interview, Dr. Helt and Dr. Fiddler agreed that the closure should not have happened now. They both agreed that the decision required more community, stakeholder, and physician engagement overall. While there are components of the closure that make sense to the local physicians (such as the acute care beds and areas of residence for doctors), it didn't need to happen in this manner. "It was a terrible way that the whole thing unfolded," said Helt, "and it shouldn't have happened."

Lack of housing complicates recruitment efforts: HHHS CEO

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Talk about an impossible task.

Trying to lure health care professionals to fill vacancies on the heels of the longest, most difficult days of a pandemic is difficult. Stress and the heartrending sights seen of COVID-19 patients and their families suffering pushed many nurses from the profession.

That makes it difficult for a health care authority to recruit nurses who have left hospital settings.

And the treatment of the Doug Ford government has pushed nurses out of Ontario. Bill 124, which was passed in 2019 before the pandemic broke, limits wage increases to one per cent for health care workers and some other public sector workers.

That makes it difficult to keep health care professionals in the ranks.

And here's another thing: Try to draw new nurses and physicians and other crucial hospital staff to an area where there's nowhere for them to live.

A person would have an easier time piping a tune to lead all the deer from Haliburton County gardens.

"Housing, a lack of public transportation, and the high cost of living have been barriers for recruitment and retention for many years, but they have gotten a lot worse in recent years," said Carolyn Plummer, the president and CEO at Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

The health authority will close one of two Emergency Departments in the county. The emergency service at the Minden facility will close permanently June 1. Services will be consolidated at the Haliburton site.

"Housing in particular is very hard to come by," Plummer said. "There is a lack of supply for those who want to purchase a home. The housing that is affordable often needs a lot of work, which then makes it far less affordable or feasible for someone to move into."

"The housing that doesn't need work is just too costly for staff to be able to afford."

There's also a dearth of rental properties in which a recruited health professional could live while a permanent roof is sought. And rents tend to skyrocket in the summer.

"As a personal example, there is nothing available on the market to rent for what I was paying when we first moved permanently to the county seven years ago," Plummer said.

"Many rentals are also short-term, through AirBnB and similar sites, which makes it hard for workers to make long-

term plans."

The HHHS decision to shift resources to Haliburton hasn't gone over well in the Township of Minden. It hasn't brought smiles to people in the other three municipalities, either.

Minden Mayor Bob Carter said in his mayor's report during the May 11 council meeting that the closure is the "consuming issue" in the region. He thanked residents who launched a petition and got behind gathering signatures, the people who inked their names to the list of residents against the closure.

"Thanks everybody for keeping this top of mind," Carter said. "I would like to say that I have a lot more information but, like everybody else, there has been absolutely no communication from HHHS in any way, shape, or form."

County council has reached out to the health authority with a demand for more information.

"But that has not yet been delivered," he said. "So we continue to work."

In Algonquin Highlands, Mayor Liz Danielsen, who is also warden of the upper tier county council, spoke during a May 4 meeting about the anger of people who have been helped at the Minden Emergency Department.

"I know this will have a serious impact on a number of residents here in Algonquin Highlands and the apparent lack of a plan going forward makes it even harder for us all to accept," she said.

She said she's often made her dissatisfaction known about the lack of communication from HHHS and how it's being handled.

If the Minden facility can't be saved or its closure delayed, Danielsen said the township council will do its utmost to ensure health care services continue for residents and visitors across the municipality and the county.

The HHHS employment portal on its website is littered with vacant temporary and permanent fulltime and part-time jobs.

Jackie Newell, who recently moved to Minden, has been a registered nurse for 20 years. She said she has acute care experience and emergency room certification.

Newell also said she's applied for jobs in the last six months at the Minden hospital.

"I have emailed the recruitment email on three occasions to express my interest and to inform them that I am open to all opportunities within the HHHS, not solely the emergency department," she said.

Newell claims nobody in a recruitment capacity at HHHS

“

Housing, a lack of public transportation, and the high cost of living have been barriers for recruitment and retention for many years, but they have gotten a lot worse in recent years.

— CAROLYN PLUMMER, HHHS PRESIDENT AND CEO

”

ever reached out to her.

"As someone who is passionate about rural health care and providing support to under-served populations, I am truly disheartened to see this department close," Newell said. "I was really looking forward to serving the community in which I live."

Carter said he and other Township councillors have gotten much advice, both solicited and unsolicited, about courses of action people believe should be pursued at the municipal level.

He offered assurances that no stone will be left unturned.

"There is a lot that is happening and just, please, keep up the pressure and keep this top of mind," he said. "We are striving to get the best outcome."

"To get the best provision of emergency services and the best health care possible in the county."

Plummer said the question of housing and the high costs to live in the area have been impediments to other Haliburton County businesses and organizations.

"We know we've lost a number of potential candidates, at the front-line and even at the vice-president level, because of a lack of affordability," she said.

"HHHS is grateful for the work of organizations like Places for People, who recently hosted the 2023 Haliburton County Housing Summit to look for innovative solutions to the housing challenges our community faces."

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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Members of the Public will participate electronically, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

May 25 – Regular Council Meeting

June 8 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently seeking energetic and highly motivated individuals for a variety of positions within the municipality. Please visit our website at <https://www.mindenhills.ca/careers/> for a complete list of available positions and how to apply.

IMPORTANT LANDFILL CARD INFORMATION

Don't recycle your current Landfill Card, blue in colour, valid from May 1, 2021-April 30, 2023, it has been extended to the end of December 2023.

CULTURAL CENTRE EVENTS

Cross Cut, an exhibit by Rob Niezen, is on display at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until July 1. The exhibit features 24 linocuts illustrating traditional Ontario folk songs reimagined in a contemporary context. Listen to the songs while viewing the exhibit using the QR app on your smartphone! The gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation. For more information please look at the events calendar <https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2023-05-04-1000-Cross-Cut-Exhibit-by-Rob-Niezen>.

The Minden Hills Museum & Heritage Village and Nature's Place is now open for the season Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Join us for self-guided village tours and hands-on activities including Bat Crafts on May 25, Rock Painting on May 26 and Nature Experiments on May 27! Admission is by donation. For more information, please call 705-286-3763 or email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

For more information please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca.

Complete fire ban for all of Minden Hills
FIRE BAN LIFTED MAY 24 at 12:01 AM

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TENDER OPPORTUNITIES

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RFT ENV 23-002 – Grading and Final Cover Application at the Scotch Line Landfill

Keep informed of current projects available to bid on by visiting our website at mindenhills.ca/en/local-government/bid-opportunities for a list of available tender opportunities.

Climate change wreaks havoc on public health

by JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Climate change is a public health priority.

Sue Shikaze, an environmental health promoter at the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge Public Health Units, told board of health members May 18 that something that affects the environment affects its population.

“We’re still in a position to do something about climate change,” she said. “Linking it to health is a real opportunity. Often, climate change gets framed as strictly an environmental concern.”

“If you’re an environmentalist, you know that what affects the environment also affects us. But not everybody makes that sort of connection.”

In Ontario, the public health standards recently highlighted public health boards’ responsibility to assess climate change’s health impacts at their respective local level.

To that end, the work at HKPR has been broken down into two phases, she said.

The first phase that began in 2018 comprises a climate change health vulnerability and adaptation assessment.

It identified six climate hazards: extreme temperatures, extreme weather and natural events, vector-borne diseases, safe food and water, air quality, and solar ultraviolet radiation exposure.

Vector-borne diseases refer primarily to West Nile virus and Lyme disease.

“The purpose of the Phase 1 assessment really is to understand the current situation and identify who is most vulnerable,” Shikaze said. “As we learned from the COVID-19

pandemic, it affects everyone but it doesn’t affect everyone in the same way.”

Climate change is the same way, she said.

Understanding the situation locally means getting a handle on the “current burden of illness and how that might be affected by changes we might see in the climate,” she said.

Shikaze said vulnerability is a function of three factors: exposure, sensitivity, and an individual’s adaptive capacity.

“Together, those three things contribute to vulnerability,” Shikaze said. “And our role at public health is to be aware of who is most exposed and sensitive and try to build their adaptive capacity through the work that we do.”

People likely to be impacted more significantly includes the elderly, children, indigenous peoples, people with mental illnesses and pre-existing health conditions such as asthma or health disease and such. People who are pregnant, live in poverty, or work and play outside are included in that group.

“I think it’s also important to recognize that some of these categories overlap,” she said.

In the HKPR region, she said we can expect our climate to get warmer, wetter, and wilder.

“And that’s really true not just here but across the county, around the world,” Shikaze said.

Expect more daily summer temperatures to exceed 30-degrees Celsius.

Trends have shown that Lyme disease cases have been on the rise. Ultraviolet radiation is a carcinogen. Mental health-wise, climate change causes anxiety in people about what

the future will be like.

“We will continue to see increases in these health impacts in HKPR unless, as a community, as a county, as a sort of world community, we change our climate trajectory,” Shikaze said. “We also require effective adaptation now because we are seeing these

climate impacts now.”

One of the next steps for the crowd at HKPR is to develop a climate change adaptation plan that will get deeper into what sort of action is needed in public health to build climate resilience in the local population, she said.



Cold blooded critters warm hearts

Yoda the chameleon showcased his impressive eating skills to a group of very interested kids and adults alike on May 20 at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff



A Bearded Dragon, aptly named “5 O’Clock Shadow”, greeted visitors at the opening of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on May 20.



Children observe the Red Eyed Tree Frogs, who are cared for by Brownings Reptiles, on April 20.



HHHS Brings Together Emergency Services at Haliburton Site

As of June 1, 2023, emergency services will no longer be available at the HHHS Minden site.

Minden and the surrounding community will be able to access emergency services at the Haliburton site.

Visit www.hhhs.ca for more information.



Rec centre project's June start delayed

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Work to rehabilitate the Dorset Recreation Centre in Algonquin Highlands was initially slated to begin in June.

But Algonquin Highlands township council was told during its regular meeting May 18 that the project will start later than first hoped. Travis Wilson of Engage Engineering, the firm that assisted the township with the request for proposals for the work, said it will be known in a couple weeks what the project's timeline would be.

"I think you know that this is about as high priority in council's mind as anything could possibly be," Mayor Liz Danielsen said. "The sooner that we can get this underway, the better."

Wilson walked council through the only response received.

"I managed to connect with some of the proponents but, from the conversations that I've had, they did not provide a response simply due to committed projects they already have. Some were just not equipped or comfortable to complete the project, being a design-build."

The one proposal that was received was very thorough in detail and by a company that has completed similar projects in centres from the Muskoka region to Barrie.

Contract discussions are underway with Gonneau Building Group. The scope of work for some parts of the project that would influence the cost aren't yet known. As such, a firm contract value isn't available.

Pricing for the HVAC system, which Wilson said was several years old, has been updated.

The proposal recommends the completion of external foundation waterproofing, but a price for that hasn't been provided yet. Interior waterproofing was initially considered for the project, but exterior would be more effective over the long term, he said.

"Almost every contractor that visited is recommending we actually move toward an external waterproofing," Wilson said.

The proposal includes moving furniture from one room to

another during construction. But that may not be practical, he said, and furniture may need to be stored off-site or in a sea container.

There are other contract details regarding project scope that are being worked out.

Gonneau Group has included an extensive building assessment and air quality and mould testing before and after construction. Their initial submission was within budget and has the project finished by the end of December.

"Until we really complete that initial assessment to get the full understanding of the extent of work, those numbers really cannot be committed to at this time, Wilson said.

Danielsen said council is pleased that it looks like the project will be done within budget.

"I think we were all sort of prepared for a nasty shock given how the price of things have increased so dramatically during and since COVID," she said.

Iconic Minden Riverwalk tree felled

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Some may have noticed that the Minden Riverwalk on Invergordon Street is looking a little emptier these days.

That's because on April 28, the township hired a tree removal company to remove a large pine tree alongside the river. "The concern was brought to us by council," said Craig Belfry, the director of community services for Minden Hills, "I assume that they had some calls about it from neighbours on the river."

Belfry shared that the tree - which was well over 100 years old - was dealing with an infestation which he believed to be carpenter ants. While the township explored other options, including cabling the tree to save it, at the end of the day, an arborist deemed the tree too unstable to save.

"It is unfortunate," said Belfry. "It was a very old tree, but it's given us a chance to take a look at our tree maintenance program, and see if we can help other trees."

He also noted that the Township of Minden Hills currently has a memorial tree program, which means that if anyone is interested in replacement possibilities, they can reach out to the Community Services Department for more information, or visit the website under the applications, licenses, and permits section at www.mindenhills.ca.



A large pine tree was taken down on the Riverwalk on April 28, causing some confusion and questions from the community. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

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The truth

A QUESTION ANY individual has asked themselves a multitude of times. What is the truth?

The truth is something we are always seeking. We yearn for it as human beings. Sometimes, it's not what we need. But the clarity that accompanies the concept of "truth" is what we strive for.

I ask for the truth daily. We have a rule in our home that we teach our children; no one will ever get in trouble, as long as you tell the truth.

It's tattooed on us from a young age that the truth is the only way. It is the absolute answer. The ultimate goal.

So what is the truth when so many people share their stories? I have watched as this hospital closure has hit newsstands across the province. Trucks from CTV and Global are becoming standard on Saturday mornings in the park. We flip through the television channels and stumble across grainy footage of the front of the Minden ER, the yellow shirts plastering social media pages across the board.

I watched one particular newscast that made me stop in my tracks. It had facts that were wrong. Questions that had already been answered. Voices that didn't seem to share the facts.

Where was the truth in that? How could a story be misconstrued so much?

But then I looked at my own writing. My only goal is to share the truth; at the risk of limiting my own personal beliefs and boundaries, I have been dedicated to the truth. It's what I teach my own children, it's what I strive to share in our corner of the world.

But on April 20, I wrote these words: "this closure is based solely on staffing rather than funding;

recruitment is the persistent struggle looming over most rural communities."

I stood by those words that I had put out to our readers. I put my name behind them, published them as fact.

And since that date, I have had that nagging thought in my brain. Are there more truths out there? I have watched the rallies and supported the cause and listened to our community share their outcry, but I had written those words. And I chose to believe those words as truth. It came down to staffing. That's what they told me was the truth.

That is, until I had two Minden physicians approach me and change the narrative. In their words, they are "sufficiently staffed to get us to the end of September." The closure, it "shouldn't have happened."

So now I have a new story. A different angle. An alternative narrative. A new truth.

Are these the beliefs I now carry?

The truth is impossible to find. You think that if

you hear right from the source, then it is a guarantee. It has to be the truth.

But the fact of the matter is that there are so many angles, so many sources, so many stories, all coagulated together into a mashup of versions, tales, and truths.

Is there one sole truth? I don't think so. I think every story has multiple sides, and somewhere in the middle, there's something that resembles the truth. This is why it's important to do your own research, ask your own questions, and never feel satisfied, even if you think you know the truth.

Because the truth is alive; it's active and adapting and forever changing.

And it's for that reason that you never stop asking yourself: what is the truth?

**EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

Kwarky



"You'll need math for solving Sudoku later in life."

Sole survivor

I WAS FLY fishing in a fast-flowing stretch of river on Victoria Day, when I noticed that suddenly, wading became a lot more difficult.

At first, I attributed this to the fact that I was not as young as I used to be, but later when I made my way to shore, the problem was easy to ascertain. The outsole of my wading boot had basically separated from the main body, so that more than half of it was flapping in the current. So, basically while my footstep was trying to take me one way, the detached part of the outsole was catching the fast current and trying to take me the other.

This is not the first time this has happened with this pair of wading boots. I fixed the same problem with shoe goop several years ago – and it finally gave out.

I'm taking that as a sign. The time for a new pair of boots is here.

Losing a good pair of wading boots is never an easy thing, however. Those boots have carried me through a lot of marshes and trout streams. I've grown comfortable with them. Heck, they've done a lot for me, not the least of which is they've made me look taller.

But I also think that I shouldn't just think of myself. I need to consider the boots too – both the one that's marked L and the one that's marked R. They deserve to go out in a dignified way. It's the least I could do to honour them. So, I will retire them and probably use them as cup holders in my outdoors-themed office.

Plus, let's be honest here, their failure could have had serious implications. That errant flap could have got snagged

under a rock or stick and tripped me up or knocked me off balance so that I was swept away by the current, which could have had regrettable consequences.

That's right, I could have spooked the pool and put down all those brook trout in it. And this could have possibly ended my friendship with the fishing buddy I was with.

I wouldn't have drowned because I now wear an inflatable personal floatation device when wading in fast water, so at least that wasn't an issue. But imagine, if you will, a grown man stepping out of a river 200 yards downstream, soaked from top to bottom, and festooned with aquatic plants. Then after you asked, "Are you all right?" his reply would very likely be, "Yes, but my waders are full."

And, though you would naturally assume they were filled with river water, you wouldn't be 100 per cent certain.

That's what I mean when I say serious consequences.

The point is I am fully justified in purchasing a new set of wading boots. It is a health and safety issue that an angler cannot skip on. Plus, duct tape only works so well.

I'm thinking I'll buy felt soled boots with metal studs for extra grip. And I will very likely explore the cost of a wading staff too – though I don't suspect I can afford more than three people.

That incident was a wake-up call.

It made me realize I'm getting older, and I can't take chances in fast water anymore. That's the kind of thing you come to accept after you do a little sole searching.

**STEVE GALEA**
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Thinking about wildfires

YOU CAN smell hints of summer in the air and the promise of sunny, worry-free times.

A worrisome thing is present, however, but for now it's something requiring our close attention so we won't have to start worrying.

We are into the fire season and there are indications it could be a bad one.

Haliburton fire chiefs, citing an extreme fire risk, issued a total fire ban for Haliburton County last week. All burn permits are cancelled.

The ban covers any open flame that cannot be turned off by a valve or switch. That includes fireworks and charcoal barbecues.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

Fire seasons and fire bans are nothing new. There are indications, however, that devastating wildfires are more frequent and becoming a serious world-wide concern. Folks in Alberta and parts of B.C. and Saskatchewan can attest to that this spring.

Already this spring there have been more than 1,400 wildfires in Canada. That's well above the 10-year annual average of 1,061 fires for this time of year.

A United Nations report concluded recently that the risk of deadly blazes will surge in coming years as the result of climate change. Produced by more than 50 researchers on six continents, the report estimates the global risk of devastating fires will increase by more than 50 per cent over the coming decades.

"The heating of the planet is turning landscapes into tinderboxes," said the report, which forecast that we are heading for a "global wildfire crisis."

The good news is that people are becoming more aware and concerned about the increasing threats of wildfires. A recent survey of 1,500 Canadians found that 46 per cent worry about damage caused by wildfires.

Increased awareness will help make us all think more deeply about what we can do individually to help prevent fires.

The National Forestry Database indicates that 8,000 wildfires occur every year in Canada, roughly one-half of them caused by lightning. There is little we can do to prevent that but we can do much to prevent the 50 per cent caused by humans.

Most of us know better than to leave a fire unattended. However, how diligent are we in extinguishing fires we have set for cooking, warmth or burning debris? Do we take the time to drown fires, then stir the ashes to ensure they are cold?

Also, how many of us think about the possibility of our vehicles starting a wildfire? Catalytic converter surfaces under a vehicle can reach 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit under certain conditions, so driving or parking over dry grass should be avoided.

ATV exhaust systems also get hot enough to ignite tinder dry grass, leaves and brush. Grass can build up around the exhaust pipe and engine. It may heat up, fall to the ground and ignite a fire.

ATVs have a small mesh screen inside the muffler to stop sparks from shooting out onto the ground. Some people remove these spark arresters to gain more horsepower, and that definitely is not a good idea.

It is a good idea to carry a fire extinguisher in your vehicle, whether it be car, truck or ATV.

We all need to be more diligent about brush, especially after a winter of ice storms that left us with an unusual amount of downed trees and fallen branches. Dry brush is miracle food for wildfires and we need to be diligent about clearing it away.

Governments and service companies like Ontario Hydro and Bell need to be more rigorous in ensuring dry brush is cleared away. I get nervous driving along Highway 35 and seeing piles of cut brush left to dry under power lines.

Our world is becoming warmer, drier and windier – all factors that increase wildfire risks. When risks increase so must thinking and planning on how to reduce them.

One of the most important ways of reducing wildfire risks is to strictly observe fire bans. People who think their small, attended campfire is not a risk are not thinking clearly.

We live surrounded by trees and other vegetation that becomes explosive when dried by sun, wind and lack of rain. There is no such thing as being too cautious when wildfire risks start mounting like they are now.

letters to the editor

One down. One to go

To the Editor,

Congratulations HHHS for paving the way to privatization. Smart move to take out the stronger ER hospital first knowing Haliburton can't possibly survive without its loyal partner. Being aware that staffing was a struggle you went for the jugular taking out at least 10 of the ER doctors. How many nurses did you send off on stress leave? Sneaky giving the public, council and staff such short notice, 41 days didn't give them much time to react.

No coincidence I am sure that you had the meters in the clinic parking lot removed two weeks before announcing the closure. Nice that you could add that space to ER parking – a bit of a hike but better than nothing. Removing the

coke machine in the existing waiting room will certainly enlarge the area.

Tourist and future property buyers when you come north don't stop in Haliburton. It is too risky as you might get sick or have an accident. Carry on north to Ford Muskoka Cottage Country where millions of dollars are being sunk into expanding hospitals.

Back in 2004 this government was successful in closing down the Leslie Frost Center - another Haliburton gem lost forever.

Wakeup Haliburtonians'. The Conservative Government is not our friend.

Jan and Dave Heaven
Minden

Protect yourself and others against lyme disease

Prevention and precaution are advised as springtime brings an increased risk of vector-borne diseases. The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR District Health Unit) encourages residents to remain vigilant and take proactive measures to minimize the risk of these diseases.

According to HKPR District Health Unit's, Manager of Health Protection, Richard Ovcharovich, "Springtime brings an increased risk of vector-borne diseases, particularly ticks, and Lyme disease, as well as West Nile virus. It is vital for individuals to be aware of the risks and to take appropriate precautions to protect themselves, their families, and their communities."

Ticks are tiny arachnids that thrive in wooded and grassy areas, that pose a significant threat to public health. Their bites can transmit Lyme disease, a bacterial infection that can cause severe complications if left untreated. According to local data, the number of reported Lyme disease cases has been steadily rising, emphasizing the need for increased awareness and preventive measures.

To tackle this growing concern, it is recommended to take the following precautions:

Avoid tick-infested areas: When possible, avoid tall grass, dense vegetation, and wooded areas by staying on trails.

Wear protective clothing: When venturing into tick-prone environments, cover exposed skin by wearing light-coloured clothing with long sleeves, long pants, and

closed-toe shoes. Tuck your pants into socks to prevent ticks from crawling up the legs.

Use insect repellent: Apply insect repellents containing DEET or picaridin on exposed skin and clothing. Always follow the instructions provided by the manufacturer.

After an outing: Placing clothing directly in a dryer and drying them for a minimum of six minutes on high heat will effectively kill ticks on clothing.

Perform tick checks: After spending time outdoors, thoroughly inspect your body for ticks. Pay close attention to hard-to-reach areas such as the scalp, behind the ears, and under the arms. Prompt removal of attached ticks reduces the risk of infection.

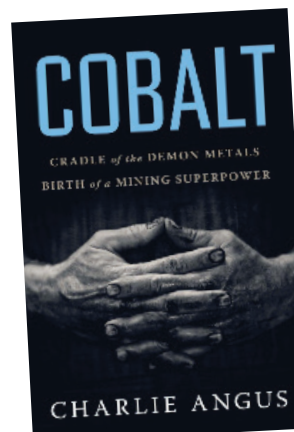
Create tick-safe environments: Make your home and yard less attractive to ticks by regularly mowing the grass, removing leaf litter, and creating a barrier between wooded areas and recreational spaces.

The HKPR District Health Unit no longer accepts ticks for testing and instead refers residents to use etick.ca, a public platform for image-based identification and population monitoring for ticks in Canada. In 2022 there were 5,444 ticks submitted to etick.ca from Ontario alone.

By working together and implementing these preventive strategies, we can significantly reduce the impact of vector-borne diseases like Lyme disease. For more information visit hkpr.on.ca/FightTheBite.

Submitted

HCPL's Book of the Week



The world is desperate for cobalt. It drives the proliferation of digital and clean technologies. But this "demon metal" has a horrific present and a troubled history. The modern search for cobalt has brought investors back to a small town in Northern Canada, a place called Cobalt.

The tale of the early-twentieth-century mining rush at Cobalt has been told as a settler's adventure, but Indigenous people had already been trading in metals from the region for two thousand years. Exploring this history of land theft, exploitation and destruction, Charlie Angus demonstrates how Cobalt set Canada on its path to become the world's dominant mining superpower.

Cobalt by Charlie Angus is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Wonderful Women of the Forest

The Women of the Forest concerts kicked off with a performance by Boreal at Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve on Saturday, May 20. The series will feature three more concerts throughout the spring and summer. Visit www.yoursoutdoors.ca. /TIM YANO
Special to the Times



Katherine Wheatley and Tannis Slimmon of Boreal strum along during the first Women of the Forest concert on Saturday, May 20.



Myrna McBrien and Sue Shikaze opened for Boreal to start off the series.

AH proceeds with speed review, despite budget shortfall

by JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

There's no time better than the present for a speed limit review in Algonquin Highlands.

Township council decided during its regular meeting May 18 to come up with some extra cash beyond what was budgeted so a speed limit review can proceed this year as opposed to next year.

Adam Thorn, the township's public works manager, said a speed limit review would provide the department concrete information that will be useful for a number of projects to be undertaken over the next few years.

"As opposed to staff going out and assessing a road and saying we think we should put the speed (limit) at 50 kilometres an hour," he said.

Such decisions will be based on information "from the road" as opposed to spit-ball-

ing and conjecture.

Information gleaned from the review would help determine acceptable speed limits. It will help with sign placements and it will be useful for a Transportation Master Plan that Haliburton County has in the works.

Mayor Liz Danielsen, who is also warden of Haliburton County, said the upper tier council proposed a Transportation Master Plan for 2023, but it's been put on hold.

"So I asked Adam is it key that we go ahead with this project this year or can it be put on hold," she said.

Paradigm Transportation Solutions Ltd. offered a proposal that includes the cost to gather information required to create a speed bylaw for Algonquin Highlands. The services would provide information to assist with the creation of a traffic plan. Background information for other transportation-related projects would also be provided.

Paradigm proposed to do the work for \$33,500 plus applicable tax. Staff budgeted \$17,000 for a speed review which was to be funded from the Roads Capital Reserves. That left the municipality short by \$16,500.

Council had two options to consider for the speed limit review. The project can proceed in 2023 and the unbudgeted money could be funded from Capital Reserves.

Or this year's budgeted money, which falls short, could have been transferred to reserves. Then, during the 2024 capital budgeting process, it could have been put toward the review next year along with the extra \$16,500.

"If it was put on hold, they wouldn't be able to hold the current price," Thorn said.

"But they would expect that there wouldn't be a large increase for us for next year."

Councillor Lisa Barry asked if any of the other three lower tier municipalities were pursuing similar studies.

Thorn said Dysart et al. is currently doing a speed limit review which is being carried out by Paradigm Transportation Solutions Ltd. Dysart has a co-operative procurement process that would allow for a collaboration on the project.

Thorn said the co-operative procurement among municipalities is much like "piggy-backing."

He said it would be a joint effort in as much as the same company would be used, but Algonquin Highlands wouldn't be tied to the Dysart project.

"The benefit to a piggy-back clause is we can get on to a program that's already in place without a lot of staff time rebuilding a contract or a (request for proposal) or a (request for tender) to go out," Thorn said.

"So there are saving by using the piggy-back clause."

Coun. Julia Shortreed asked if it would be best if the project is undertaken this year.

"The information they'll gather this year will be help further on down the road," Thorn said. "But, if we do it next year, it will help just as much."

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux said she can think of at least three thoroughfares in the township that would benefit from such a review.

"So I would be in favour of doing it as early as is feasible," she said, and added that she has no qualms about the increase in price.

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A project of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative
Thanks to Canadian Heritage for their support

Home and Cottage show to have ‘something for everyone’

by VIVIAN COLLINGS
Times Staff

The Home and Cottage Show is a familiar name in Haliburton County.

The longstanding, popular, family tradition is gearing up for its 44th year, with new, never-before-seen additions.

With 170 exhibitor booths lining the inside of both the Haliburton Curling Club and the AJ LaRue Arena, new events, and exciting prizes to be won, visitors of all ages can attend from Friday, June 2 to Sunday, June 4 to cater to their personal interests.

“Plans are underway for one of our most exciting and interesting shows ever,” said Haliburton Home and Cottage Show co-director Andy Glecoff. “The show gives our exhibitors a chance to showcase their business to the community, and the show gives our visitors a chance to meet local businesses and be made aware of services available in the community.”

The 20,000 square foot show will be a one-stop event with nearly 200 booths housing decor, furniture, appliances, docks, decks, hot tubs, arts, crafts, clothing, gifts, beauty products, cars, trucks, and HVAC, landscaping, construction, real estate, alternate energy professionals, and more.

“The whole show is conducive to home and cottage. There’s such an assortment in the show that there are services that can benefit full-time and seasonal residents as well as visitors of the county,” Glecoff said.

In such an involved and generous community, it may come as no surprise that the entire show is run by volunteers.



The Haliburton Home and Cottage Show will be returning this year from Friday, June 2 to Sunday, June 4. /FILE

“There’s over 150 volunteers that run this show. It’s a not-for-profit event, and it supports the community curling programs. We’ve been very successful with them. Our youth program is outstanding,” Glecoff said, listing the names of successful curlers who went on to win provincial and national titles after getting their start at the Haliburton Curling Club.

One of the main features this year will be a first-ever special guest appearance.

Gold medal Canadian Paralympic curler Mark Ideson will be attending the show to meet visitors from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 3.

In addition to businesses, the Home and Cottage Show is providing space for local community service groups.

“There are about 17 in the show right now, and they have a chance to meet with the community and explain what they do,” Glecoff said.

Food will be available at the licensed Haliburton Curling Club lounge.

Even four-legged family members can get in on the fun.

Returning by popular demand is the doggy daycare put on by Emily Packer of Tails and Trails and Allison Wells of I Love Your Dog. Free hearing tests are available from

Hear Canada and guests can sit and relax in Utopia’s massage chairs.

Don’t forget to fill in a ballot at the curling club booth for the chance to win a weekend getaway for two at Buttermilk Falls Resort, a wooden paddle and two rental vouchers from Algonquin Outfitters, or a patio fire pit from Glecoff’s Family Store.

Admission is \$3 per adult and free for children. Overflow parking has been arranged with nearby property owners.

Watch for more on the Haliburton Home and Cottage Show in upcoming editions of the Echo.

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Haliburton Highlands LTC Coalition



Bonnie and Greg Roe stand at the advanced voting station on May 23 in Haliburton. The referendum vote by the Ontario Health Coalition is scheduled for May 26 and 27. There are many local businesses who will be carrying ballot boxes on Friday and Saturday for locals to cast their votes. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

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				5			3	
6								5
	7			3				2
	9				7		5	
				1				4
1		9					8	
					8			3
	4	5				1		

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 12

Privatization Referendum Voting Stations

Friday, May 26 – Saturday, May 27

Haliburton Village

- H and R Block
- Russell Red Records
- Haliburton Supplement and Bulk Foods
- Foodland
- Castle Antiques/Poquito Loco
- Glecoff's
- The Noble Barber
- Home Hardware

Kinmount

- Kawartha Credit Union
- Farmers' Market - May 27

Irondale

- Irondale General Store
- Carnarvon
- Pine Reflections
- Eagle Lake
- Eagle Lake Country Market
- West Guilford
- West Guilford Store
- Farmers' Market, Abbey Gardens – May 26

Fort Irwin

- Till Death BBQ
- Wilberforce
- Maple View Retirement Residence
- Agnew's General Store
- Cardiff
- Cardiff Country Store
- Gooderham
- Lucky Dollar Store.

Minden

- Dominion Hotel
- River Cone
- Pharmasave
- Home Hardware
- Foodland
- Tim Hortons
- Farmers' Market - May 27
- Molly's Bistro

Saturday at the Market
The Minden Farmers' Market kicked off on Saturday, May 20 in downtown Minden. The Market will run every Saturday from 10 until 2 over the duration of the summer months, before wrapping up in early autumn. Pictured, Olivia Rickards and Katie Raftis smile despite the rainy weather. The first Market saw over 400 visitors. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

Rumpelstiltskin revisited

VARIATIONS ON the fairy tale *Rumpelstiltskin* have been around for 4000 years and permeated almost every culture, so I shouldn't be surprised how frequently it comes to my mind as a commentary on current events.

To review the plot briefly: an insecure peasant father brags that his daughter can spin straw into gold. The king locks her in a room full of straw and demands she spin it into gold by sunrise or be killed. Her despair is interrupted by an ugly little imp who promises to do the deed in exchange for her necklace. The king rewards her by putting her in a bigger room with a bigger pile of straw, says make it gold by sunrise or she's dead. The imp helps out in exchange for her ring. On the third day, the king presents an even bigger pile of straw and sweetens (I guess) the deal: death if she isn't successful, marriage to him if she is. When the imp appears, the girl has nothing to pay him with, so agrees (some versions say the price is announced after the deed is done) to give him her firstborn child. The king marries the girl (the tale doesn't say the father dances at her wedding, but we can imagine his delight) and she eventually bears a child. The imp appears to claim his prize. The girl queen is distraught. The imp offers an out: if she can guess his name, she can keep her child. During the overnight reprieve, she wanders deep into the woods and



FAY MARTIN
Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

sees the imp dancing around a fire, congratulating himself by name on the soon acquisition of a child. When the girl queen wins the deal, Rumpelstiltskin has a hissy fit that destroys or disappears him – there are many variations on his ending.

So why does the tale resonate so strongly with me? Let me count the ways.

First, there is the perfidy of men who have or seek power. Women aren't immune, so we might conclude the poison is power rather than gender. Or more accurately, how power is used. The girl queen uses her powers of detection and careful listening to protect her child.

Second, there's the nature of greed: nothing is ever enough. It's a hunger that cannot be sated. I think a lot about how capitalism feeds on materialism, our modern word for greed.

Third, there's the hierarchy of values. A necklace, a ring, and when the emptiness is not satisfied by things, it comes for people. It seeks human connection. Or perhaps the right to continuance through procreation, the ownership of a child who will ensure the gene line continues. Financial and political dynasties.

Fourth, procreation. Men can't have babies so they bully women for what they can do that men cannot. It is a frequent thought when *A Handmaid's Tale* is becoming a reality in a world near (and maybe within) us. (When all women want – a

terrible pun – is a Womb of our Own.)

Fifth, the power of naming. Piya Chattopadhyay, on *The Sunday Magazine* show on CBC, April 30th, interviewed Norma Dunning, an Inuk professor at University of Alberta, about her recent book, *Kinauvit? What's Your Name? The Eskimo Disc System and a Daughter's Search for her Grandmother*. Part of colonizing the Inuit was replacing their names with numbers and requiring that babies be given English names rather than, as was the custom, that of a recently departed member of the family, which then, according to their beliefs, allowed the dead person to rest in peace. I had no knowledge of the disk system, but it is very much in keeping with the practice of dehumanizing people by reducing them to a number – we did it in concentration camps, residential schools, the military; we do it still in prisons. (And maybe SINs, health cards, credit cards, phone numbers. Maybe my paranoia is getting out of hand. Or maybe not. I'm scared of what our cell phones know about us, and I'm not fully informed.) All I know for sure is that being a name rather than a number is important to me.

The meaning of Rumpelstiltskin's name is peeled into parts as a support to a structure – a stilt – that makes noise by rattling the posts or the planks. Thanks to those (I imagine mothers telling their children bedtime stories) who have retained him through the ages to rattle my planks.

Bowling is back for a good cause Dynamics & Dances

Bowl For Kids Sake is back and after much deliberation, we feel the event would better succeed in late spring rather than mid-summer so the event has been scheduled for May 27 at 1 p.m. and will be hosted at Fast Lane Bowling Alley in Minden again.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kawartha Lakes - Haliburton is sending out a challenge to all those that feel mentoring children is an important part of our community's health and future, register and let's see you in your best Astronaut or Alien outfit for our space theme while raising funds for mentoring programs. Our mentoring programs provide a consistent healthy relationship for youth facing adversities, giving them a safe space and supportive outlet to share life's ups and down with.

You can enter your team of 4-6 people, by going to our Canada Helps Page or by contacting our office. Once you

are registered you can start collecting pledges, then come out to bowl on May, 27th, dressed in your best Space outfit to win some amazing prizes.

"Over the last few years, we have experienced an increase in demand for service throughout the County of Haliburton so we are working to increase the service provided. With the funds raised at Bowl for Kids Sake, we hope to expand our In-School Mentoring program to schools throughout the area," shares Executive Director Janice Balfour.

Sponsorship opportunities are available.

To learn more about and register for Bowl for Kids Sake, visit

<https://kawarthalakes.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/> or call the office at 705-324-6800.

Submitted

Saturday May 27 at 7:30 p.m., with doors open at 7 p.m.

At the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion

Tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$25 for an adult accompanying a child under 16. Tickets can be purchased from orchestra members, at Russell Red Records in Haliburton. Or to reserve tickets, call Ken at 705-286-0413.

The Highlands Chamber Orchestra is back with *Dynamics & Dances*. This is their spring classics concert filled with dances and pieces with lively complex rhythms. This includes a Beethoven minuet from his *Eighth Symphony*, the *Overture to the Wreckers* by Ethel Smyth, *Molly on the Shore* by Percy Aldridge Grainger, *Danse Bacchanale* by Saint-Saens and several more exciting dynamic classical tunes.

For more information about this concert, or to enquire about joining the orchestra for future seasons, call Dan Manley at 705-455-2350.

Submitted

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Monarch butterfly feeding on nectar from a Woodland Sunflower along the Minden Riverwalk. /Photos by the Haliburton County Master Gardeners



Joe Pye Weed with Eastern Viceroy butterfly along the Minden Riverwalk.

SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF MINDEN RIVERWALK

Stepping into Nature

You're Invited!
LAUNCH CELEBRATION
Friday, May 26th • 10:30am – 12pm
Minden Riverwalk, corner of
Invergordon & Bobcaygeon roads
**Stay for guided walking tours
led by Master Gardeners!**

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For Attendees!**

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the flora & fauna in Haliburton Highlands

 **Haliburton County
Master Gardeners** www.HaliburtonMasterGardener.ca



Step into nature with the Master Gardeners

by **SHELLEY FELLOWS**
Haliburton County Master Gardeners

How many times have you driven down Water Street along the Gull River in Minden, intent on your errands and tasks? Do you notice the changing seasons along the riverbanks? How about the glorious Cardinal Flower, blooming along the riverbank in the late summer? The scent of blossoms on a Basswood tree in spring? We'd like you to take the time to park your car, to pause in your daily activities and to walk slowly and with care along the Minden Riverwalk, the waterfront trail along both sides of the Gull River in downtown Minden. Keep your senses aware and your mind open to learn about plants, insects, landscaping and gardening in a way that will support and sustain the Haliburton Highlands ecosystem.

The Haliburton County Master Gardeners have researched and prepared a walking tour of the remarkable flora and fauna along the Minden Riverwalk trail. Called "Stepping into Nature", the Haliburton County Master Gardeners have developed a free multi-media walking tour with photos, detailed descriptions of plants, insect information and gardening tips. We've even included audio stories, all accessible via a smartphone app called PocketSights, and have signs to guide and inform you along the way.

Along the 1.5 km of the Minden Riverwalk, the Haliburton County Master Gardeners examined the landscape on the riverbank through the spring, summer and fall seasons in 2022. Surprised by the diversity and beauty found along this walking trail in downtown Minden, the Master Gardeners are excited to share what they've learned about the plant species they found. Trees, shrubs, grasses, hedges, rushes and flowering plants - they're along the Riverwalk in abundance.

There's more for you however, as the Haliburton Master Gardeners partnered with researchers from Trent University through U-Links to conduct scientific collection and analysis of some of the insects that are found along the Minden Riverwalk. Researcher Caleb Brown and his team brought nets and collecting gear to the Riverwalk and gathered insects ranging from the pest insect, the Japanese Beetle, to the native Twelve-Spotted Lady beetle, a valuable predator in our

gardens, and to pollinators like the Monarch Butterfly.

If you've got questions about how to deter the Canada Goose from setting up its nest on your waterfront property, we've got some detailed recommendations in our walking tour. Are you trying to decide how to naturalize your shoreline? We've got some tips and explanations for you as well.

If you want to plan and plant a pollinator garden, there are several native flowering plants, shrubs and trees that support healthy pollinator ecosystems thriving along the Minden Riverwalk. Joe Pye Weed, Yarrow, Bee Balm and Woodland Sunflower flower at various times throughout the growing season, attracting and supporting pollinator insects who will feed both as larvae and in their adult (flying) form. Vital to the natural food web, "keystone" plant species are found along the Riverwalk, including Serviceberry, Goldenrod and Willow trees. You will find detailed information on these and about 40 other plant species in the Stepping into Nature walking tour.

A combination of practical recommendations to address common landscape problems and field research to understand the flowering plants, shrubs, trees and grasses growing along the Minden Riverwalk, the Stepping into Nature walking tour was supported by a Local Initiatives Program grant from the Haliburton County Development Corporation.

We'll be celebrating "Stepping into Nature" with a community launch event on Friday, May 26 at 10:30 a.m. at the corner of Invergordon Street and Bobcaygeon Road. The formal program will be followed by guided tours of the Minden Riverwalk trail. This is an opportunity to learn from a Master Gardener that should not be missed by experienced gardening enthusiasts and beginners alike!

The Haliburton County Master Gardeners is a community service organization. Members are certified Master Gardeners, with expertise in horticulture, botany and gardening in harmony with nature. They are celebrating 21 years in the Haliburton Highlands.

Haliburton County Master Gardeners is a volunteer organization that provides horticultural advice to specific to Haliburton and surrounding regions. Have your gardening questions answered or schedule an onsite consultation at www.haliburtoncountymastergardener.ca.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

2	5	7	6	1	3	8	4	9
9	8	4	7	2	5	6	3	1
6	1	3	4	8	9	2	7	5
5	7	6	8	3	4	9	1	2
4	9	1	2	6	7	3	5	8
3	2	8	9	5	1	7	6	4
1	3	9	5	7	2	4	8	6
7	6	2	1	4	8	5	9	3
8	4	5	3	9	6	1	2	7



The early birds

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust's annual Don Smith Memorial Spring Bird Walk gave participants an excellent view of birds along the Haliburton County Rail Trail on Sunday, May 21. /TIM YANO Special to the Times



Left, An American yellow warbler was seen by participants of the Annual Don Smith Memorial Spring Bird walk.



The Don Smith Memorial Spring Bird Walk started at the Haliburton entrance of the Haliburton County Rail Trail.

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Readings at Rails End

When: Saturdays 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., untol to June 17

Where: Rails End Gallery, 23 York Street Haliburton

Local readers read from passages from their favourite Author. Readings are held in conjunction with "Rewilding: Michelle Karch Ackerman and Tanya Zaryski" and the Authors come from The Library of Dresses gallery installation. Discussion follows each reading.

May 20 Amy Brohm reads Mary's Shelley's Frankenstein, May 27 Marguerite Easby reads Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility

June 3 Poet Ever reads Shirley Jackson

June 10 Scott Duggan reads Emily Bronte

June 17 Laurie Jones reads Beverly Cleary's Ramona the Pest. All welcome

Bowl for Kids Sake

When: May 27, 1 p.m.

Where: Fast Lanes Bowling Alley, Minden

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kawartha Lakes - Haliburton is sending out a challenge. Register and let's see you in your best Astronaut or Alien outfit for our space theme while raising funds for mentoring programs. Visit <https://kawarthalakes.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/> or call the office at 705-324-6800.

Bicycle Repair Demo

When: May 27, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Haliburton Thrift Warehouse

Does your bike need a tune-up but you don't know where to start? Gaelen Webb is an experienced bicycle mechanic who will show us how to get our bike tuned-up for summer!

Let's Jam! Kids Music Event

When: May 28, 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Where: Sirch Bistro and Bakery

Free Drop-in event for kids to experiment on a variety of provided musical instruments.

Minden Legion Branch 636

Lunch - Monday to Friday

Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.

Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.

Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.

Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.

Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.

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Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.



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**The Corporation of the County of Haliburton
Requires a Shoreline Permit Administrator/Bylaw Compliance Officer**

Reporting to the Director of Planning, the Shoreline Permit Administrator/
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the shoreline permit system and ensuring compliance with relevant
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Successful applicants will possess two years of municipal experience
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We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an
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The ideal candidate will have post-secondary education (environmental studies, environmental
sciences, environmental tech, ecosystems management, biology, or related field) and field
knowledge of ecological monitoring and biological sampling methods (OBBN certification and/or
experience with vegetation sampling protocols are preferred).

This is a 33-week contract from June 12th, 2023, to January 31st, 2024. Compensation is
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Email a detailed cover-letter and resume to admin@ulinks.ca by June 2nd, 23:59 EST

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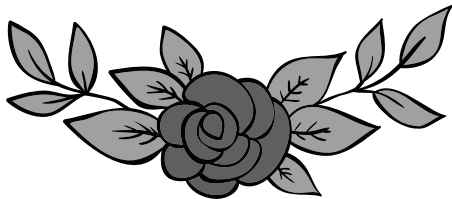


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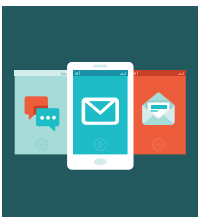


Peacefully surrounded by her family at Haliburton Hospital on Saturday, April 29, 2023, in her 84th year. Beloved wife of Tom for over 60 years. Cherished Mom of Donna (Rob Stirling) and Chris (Lisa). Treasured Nana to Claire, Lauren, Emily and Holly. Loving Aunt and dear friend to many. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Barb was born and raised in Minden, Ontario where she started her secretarial career. After Tom and Barb married, they moved to Toronto where Barb continued her career. She made many friends, raised her family, entertained, travelled, and kept active dancing, curling, and cross-country skiing. Barb loved to garden and to sew and knit, creating baby quilts and cozy throws for the special people in her life. After retiring, Barb and Tom moved to a beautiful home on Lake Kashagawigamog in the Haliburton Highlands. Barb was a lifelong member of the United Church, worshipping and contributing in many ways (including many pies) to the life of Minden United, Hillcrest United and, most recently, Highland Hills United Church in Minden. Barb will be remembered for her quiet strength, kindness, quick wit, style and the meals and treats that nourished us all.

Celebration Of Life & Reception

A Service will be held to celebrate Barb's life at **HIGHLAND HILLS UNITED CHURCH** 21 Newcastle St. Minden, Ontario on Friday morning, June 9, 2023, at 11 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior). As an expression of sympathy, donations to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation or Highland Hills United Church would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com



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- 905 sqft chalet style cottage in poor condition, so consider it a full gut or tear down.



Vince Duchene
Broker
705-457-0046
www.vinceduchene.ca

HARCOURT \$118,500



JUST LISTED

- 3.8ac, nicely treed, mixed terrain
- Private yet close to Wilberforce
- Utilities run along road
- Close to Hudson Lk boat launch
- Abuts 1000s of acres of Crown
- Many area lakes & trails to explore



Rick Forget
Broker
705-457-0580
haliburtonhighlands-remax.ca

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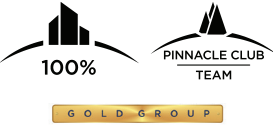
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Deb Lambe

Sales Representative

705-854-0103

debra.lambe@gmail.com



BUILDING AND BUSINESS FOR SALE



- 42 seat Restaurant with Full Commercial Kitchen
- Oversized lot for outdoor business expansion
- Four Bedroom Apartment for Rental Income
- Well Established Business; Owner is ready to Retire



Lynda Litwin
Sales Representative
705-457-8511
lynda@lyndalitwin.ca

FAMILY HOME \$599,000



NEW LISTING

Turn key 4 season home has 4 bedrooms and 3 full bath. Walkout from dining room to deck overlooking a private backyard. Open kitchen, dining area. Fully finished basement with lots of space. 5 minutes from Haliburton. Access to Haliburton County Rail Trail down the road.



Kelly Mercer
Broker
705-455-7500
kelly@kelly-mercerc.ca

SPECTACULAR FAMILY HOME \$674,000



NEW LISTING

This home includes 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large bright kitchen-dining area, cozy living room, sitting room, family room, two garages, wrap around porch and much more. This home is a pleasure to show!



Lisa Mercer
Broker
705-457-0364
www.lisamercer.ca

1242 TOM BOLTON ROAD - ASKING \$699,000



NEW LISTING

Custom built raised bungalow situated on a quiet country setting between Minden and Haliburton - 2600 sq. ft. of living space - open concept living with a w/o to 12ft x 44ft rear deck - pine cathedral ceilings - oak hardwood floors - pine doors and trim throughout - 3 bedrooms - 2 baths - w/o lower level family room - mud rm - office or den



Ted Vasey
Sales Representative
705-455-2034
ted@tedvasey.ca

IN TOWN HOME \$739,000



- 1.4 Acre Private Lot
- Bright, Spacious 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath
- Finished Lower Level
- Double Detached Heated Garage
- Environmentally Friendly Wood Heating System



Ken Barry
Broker 705-754-5280
Jacquie Barry
Realtor® 705-457-0652
www.kenbarry.com
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705-457-1011

MINDEN

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WILBERFORCE

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Minden

Preserve Wildlife
Party at

The World Famous
ROCKCLIFFE
Tavern

Tuesday, May 23, 1989

Highlights

Kayak racers

Hard work has paid off for the committee promoting this summer's World Cup whitewater races in Minden. They will be getting national media coverage. Please see page 2.

Roads

The update of the needs study for Haliburton County roads was presented to council last week. Funding cutbacks are paving the way to bumpy roads. Please see page 7.

Hurdler

HHSS Hurdler Darren Warburton shattered all records at the COSSA track meet last Thursday in Napanee. And, just to make sure, he did it twice. Please see page 10.

My Mom

"My mom baits her own hooks" that's why she is the best mom, says one of the kids who entered the BIA Mothers Day contest. Please see page 12.

So long

The Minden BIA has won the fight to push Derwyn Barry's chip truck out of the village core. Minden council refused to renew the license. Please see page 12.

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TV listings are included in This Week in the highlands for the summer.

Minden diamond will sparkle

Council okays Minden Park

The first phase of the Minden Township Park plan will get underway this summer now that both provincial and municipal funding are in place.

While commenting on the new municipal budget last week, Reeve Ray Moore noted that council will be transferring the required \$78,173 from the parks reserve fund for use on this project.

Two weeks ago council received word that a provincial grant for the project had been approved. At that time, though, it was not clear whether the municipality would be able to come up with the matching funds required to receive the grant.

The project is being funded equally by the municipality and the province and is expected to cost almost \$160,000. It involves the creation of a new ball diamond, a playground, washrooms, a parking area and tree planting. The Minden Township Park Plan was updated in 1987 and Parks Manager Ivan Ingram submitted the grant application a year ago.

Ingram says he was surprised that the Ministry of Tourism approved the grant this year. He said that when he had not heard by the end of April, he figured the application had been turned down.

The new ball diamond will be built next to the present lower diamond behind the arena and curling club. The creation of the new ball diamond is expected to account for about half the cost of this phase of the park plan. It includes a backstop and fencing, lights and electrical, sod, magnetic bases, players benches and dugouts, three sets of bleachers and two scoreboards.

The children's playground, which will be located next to the two ball diamonds, will be a metal or wood prefabricated unit and is expected to cost about \$8,000.

The washroom facilities will be complete with showers. This 836-square-foot building will also include a storage area and control panels for the lighting at the ball diamonds. This building is expected to cost more than \$50,000.

A new parking lot will also be built as part of this project and there will be some tree planting done around the baseball fields.

The Minden Township Park masterplan has been in place since 1970. It was updated in 1978 and again in 1987. However, few of the recommendations have been implemented until now.

As another part of the park plan, the Parks Department has cleared the underbrush in the area east of the ball diamond, where 70 campsites will be located.

The second phase of this project is expected to be more costly than the first. It involves the creation of recreational trails in the southern half of the park.



The senior students at Archie Stouffer Elementary School hit a high note Thursday evening with their annual music night. The concert provided an opportunity for the students, individually and in groups, to demonstrate the musical talents acquired during the past year. Concentration shows in the faces of grade eight band members Corby Kent, left, and Danny Garbutt, indicative of the effort made by all performers.

Snowdon taxes will rise 17%

Snowdon Township residents are being slapped with a 17 per cent increase in their property taxes this year as a result of the new budget approved by council on May 15.

The overall tax hike is the result of a 29 per cent increase in the municipal levy, a 16.9 per cent increase in the education levy and a 4.6 per cent increase in the county levy.

The largest increase is in the roads budget, which is going up by \$23,473 this year for a 20 per cent increase. High percentage increases are seen in the budgets for fire protection (75 per cent) and environment (162 per cent).

The budget for general government is going up by three per cent.

Excluding the county and education levies, the municipality will be raising \$97,973 through taxation this year. That's an increase of 29.2 per cent over the previous year.

Part of this hike is due to a roll back in the funding from the province, says township clerk Ernie Hills. Last year the province covered more than 53 per cent of the municipal budget and this

Minden taxes jump 12.5 per cent.
see page 11.

year it's down to 48.15 per cent. This roll back forced the municipality to increase its revenue from taxation.

The increase in the budget for environmental services stems from the need to control access to the dumps. This is a directive from the Ministry of the Environment, which threatened to close the dumps if the township couldn't put a stop to all the fires.

The increase in costs is based on estimates to fence and provide manpower at the dumps. Other major costs in this area are for the creation of a recycling program to enhance the lifespan of the dumps.

The increased cost for fire protection is the result of a new agreement with Anson, Hindon and Minden Townships fire department that calls for an extra \$4,500 for the fire protection standby fee.

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Jim Alder*
705-935-1112

Properties Wanted!

- Call me today to book a no obligation property evaluation
- I have buyers waiting...



Andy Campbell
854-0292

Minden Home \$425,000

- 3 Beds / 1 Bath, 1300 Sq Ft
- Oversized Attached Garage, Lg Backyard
- Rental Opportunity/In-Law Capability
- Sun Porch Facing Gull River, Walk to Town



Gloria Carnochan* & Breann Budel*
754-1932

Kennis Lk Sunsts Yr RD \$2,249,000

- 172 Ft Frontage, Water On Backside, Level Priv
- Shallow Entry, View, Spacious 2 BD 2 Bath
- Stone FP, All Glass Lake Side, Guest Hse /Bath
- 3 Side Deck, Rock Fire Pit By Water, Garage



Mark Dennys*
457-0473

Beautiful Family Home \$799,900

- Approx 2807 Sq Ft, 233 Ft Rd Frtg, 1.3 Acres
- Great Room, 3 Bdm, 3 Bath, Main Flr Laundry
- Rec Room with Wet Bar, Wrap-Around Deck
- Attached 3 Car Garage, Level Lot, Privacy



Tom Ecclestone*
286-2138 x 226

Building Lot On Boshkung Lk

- 180+ ft of big lake views with southwest exposure
- Ideal building lot with direct access off hwy 35
- Miles of boating, great fishing, outstanding restaurants



Lindsay Elder**
457-5878

Listings Wanted!

- If you're thinking of selling...CALL ME!
- Strike while the market is hot!



Melanie Hevesi**
854-1000

Silver Beach \$820,000

- The new standard in luxury lakeside living
- 2600 sq.ft. finished space, 4 beds/4 baths
- Main floor primary bedroom & ensuite
- Exclusive use of clubhouse & waterfront



Andrew Hodgson**
286-2138 x 229

Haliburton Lake Rd \$599,000

- 235-acre parcel close to Haliburton Lake
- Road installed into partially clear building site
- ATV trails throughout to property to explore
- Enjoy ultimate privacy, quiet & seclusion



Susanne James* & Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 133

Wenona Lake \$899,900

- Chalet-Style Ctg, 3 Beds / 1 Bath, 850 SqFt
- 101ft of Rock & Sand Shoreline, New Septic 2021
- Open-Concept, Main Flr Laundry, Screen Porch
- Breathtaking Lake View, 20 mins to Haliburton



Ashley McKeigue
705- 854-1833

Oblong Lake \$579,000

- 0.9-acre parcel with north-western exposure
- Over 700 feet of clean, sand & rock frontage
- Driveway installed & building site partially clear
- 2-lake chain with premium Haliburton Lake



Brandon Nimigon***
457-2128 x 127

Paradise on Drag River!

- \$274,900, Very Private & Peaceful
- 1.05 Acre Lot Fronting on Desirable Drag River
- Campfire Area, Outhouse, Installed Driveway
- Year Round Private Road Property



Karen Nimigon**
457-6505

Minden Home \$459,000

- 3 Beds / 2 Baths, 1000+ Sq ft
- Convenient Location, Double Car Garage
- Charming Bunkie, Private Yard w/ Gazebo
- Close to Town For Shopping & Amenities



Kelly Kay*
705-457-6841
Kirsten Rae*
705-854-1454

Soyers Lake \$1,700,000

- 3 Beds/2 Baths, 1800+ Sq Ft, 149' of Frtg
- Sunny Southern Views, Spacious Rec Room
- Recently Upgraded Kitchen, Woodstove
- 10 Mins to Haliburton & Minden



Darlene Reil*
447-2055

Loop Road

- \$169,000, Area of Many Lakes!
- Very Private, Driveway In
- 4+ Acreage in Harcourt
- Several Choices of Building Sites



Christine Sharp*
705-489-9968

Private, Building Lot \$159,000

- 2 Acre Forested Lot
- Beautiful Mixture of Pine & Maple Trees
- Public Access to Basshaunt Lake Close By
- Few Mins From All Amenities of Eagle Lake



Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 128

Large Acreage on Cockle Lake!

- 131 Acres, 3000+ ft of Water Frontage
- Hydro Available at the Lot Line
- Year-Round Township Maintained Road
- 20 Mins to Haliburton Village



Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 232

Bethel Road \$549,000

- Incredible 194-acre parcel just mins from Minden
- Long gated driveway to private, cleared site
- Large frontage on picturesque Walker's Pond
- Trails throughout to explore, teaming with wildlife



Lindsay Wilkinson*
286-2138 x 223

Drag Lake \$949,500

- 3 bedrooms plus Bunkie, minutes from town
- Fully winterized for year round enjoyment
- One of Haliburton's premier lakes for swimming, boating and fishing

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it's a great time to move.
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